



# SALEM SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 1, 2016

## SALEM SHERIFF'S OFFICE WARNS OF PHONE SCAMS

The Salem Sheriff's Office has received several citizen inquiries about phone calls they are receiving related to jury duty in the city. The scammers are telling citizens that they have failed to report for jury duty and must adhere to certain instructions. Usually, they are asking for cash or credit card numbers, and most concerning is the fact that the perpetrators are often using actual Sheriff's Office employee names in order to add authenticity to the scam.

Please be aware that under no circumstances will the City of Salem Sheriff's Office call a citizen and threaten jail and/or a fine for missing jury duty. Please follow these important safety steps:

- NEVER agree to meet someone at "neutral" locations such as a grocery store parking lot or suggested locations other than the Sheriff's Office.
- If at all possible, retrieve the number listed on your caller-ID and call your local Police Department or Sheriff's Office. The Salem Sheriff's Office number is 540-375-3040.
- Make notes of everything that is communicated during the phone conversation.
- Trust your instincts. The scam artists prey on your fears. If you have concerns, please call your local Sheriff's Office or Police Department.

Also, please be aware that this is prime season for the usual IRS telephone scams. The IRS will never make initial contact with a citizen by telephone.

Contact:

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